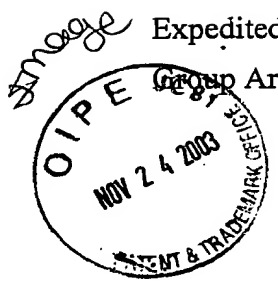


AF
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Expedited Procedure under 37 CFR 1.116

Group Art Unit (2812)

Attorney Docket No.: P-4007-US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: BLOOM, Ilan et al. Examiner: BOOTH, Richard A
Serial No.: 09/988,122
Filed: November 19, 2001
Title: PROTECTIVE LAYER IN MEMORY DEVICE AND METHOD THEREFOR

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 27, 2003 issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified Application. A response to the June 24, 2003 Office Action was due September 27, 2003. Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal on September 23, 2003. Accordingly, a response to the June 27, 2003 Office Action is due November 23, 2003 which falls on a Sunday. Therefore, this response, filed Monday November 24, 2003, is being timely filed.

Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.